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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,840	12/21/2001	Lisa Baker	PGI6044P0780US	4948
32116	7590	06/15/2004	EXAMINER	
WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER 500 W. MADISON STREET SUITE 3800 CHICAGO, IL 60661			STEPHENS, JACQUELINE F	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3761	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/036,840	BAKER, LISA
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Jacqueline F Stephens	3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 6-11 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-11 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/5/04 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/5/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the claim language clearly structurally differentiates applicant's claimed article from the cited Nakamura reference, in that the recited "topical application" clearly implies that the recited admixture is present at the surface of the claimed substrate, in clear distinction from the cited Nakamura reference, which has no teachings of application of an odor-controlling compound to the base substrate. However, the examiner has cited page 18, lines 1-18 of Nakamura, which discloses a substrate with the compound attached to the substrate, or alternatively the compound enveloped by the substrate, or further, the compound distributed between two tissue webs. In all of the above instances the compound is present at a surface of the base substrate material, which is what is required by independent claim 1. Applicant has not

required the compound specifically located on an exposed or internal or external surface, just that the compound is present at a surface.

Applicant further argues Nakamura does not teach an admixture comprising hydroxydiphenyl ether and an aliphatic acid carrier, with the admixture of these two components applied to the base substrate material. Nakamura discloses on page 16, line 29 through page 17, line 3 a mixture of the antimicrobial solution and the HFAP, which reads on the admixture as claimed. As explained above, Nakamura discloses the compound (admixture) attached to the substrate.

Applicant further argues Nakamura does not teach or suggest the resultant cooperation of components, which is achieved by applicant's claimed admixture. However, Nakamura discloses teaches a substrate having a compound comprising the claimed materials attached to the substrate. The substrate is used in the same environment, a disposable article, as applicant's substrate. Therefore, the general conditions of the claimed invention are present in the prior art. Even though Nakamura does not disclose the specific reaction of the components, the claims are structural claims and the substrate results in an odor control absorbent article. When the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims of the instant invention, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent (MPEP 2112-2112.01).

***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of applicant claims “an odor control absorbent article” in line 1 and a “disposable absorbent article” in line 13. It is requested consistent language is used to describe the claimed invention. Furthermore, section d) of claim 1, recites an “odor control compound being present at a surface of said base substrate material by having been topically applied in aqueous form to the base substrate material” and section e) recites “the treated base substrate material”. It is requested applicant clarify the treated base substrate material – is topically applying the compound the treatment?

***Claim Interpretation***

3. It is noted the “treated base substrate material” of claim 1 is claimed as being formed into a component material for a disposable absorbent article. The examiner is interpreting the treated base material as a substrate containing a compound comprising an admixture of a hydroxydiphenyl ether and an aliphatic acid carrier, and because the claim does not require specific structure regarding the component material, the treated base substrate can be any part of a disposable absorbent article.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Art Unit: 3761

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nakamura WO 99/38541.

As to claims 1, 7, 8, and 11, Nakamura discloses an odor control absorbent article comprising:

a) a base substrate material selected from the group consisting of nonwoven fabrics, woven fabrics, polymeric films, and the combinations thereof (page 22, lines 3-17);

b) an odor control compound;

c) the odor control compound comprising an admixture of a hydroxydiphenyl ether and aliphatic acid (page 6, lines 29-32, page 8, lines 18-26) carrier;

d) Nakamura discloses a substrate with the compound attached to the substrate, or alternatively the compound enveloped by the substrate, or further, the compound distributed between two tissue webs. In all of the above instances the compound is present at a surface of the base substrate material (page 18, lines 1-18). The limitation of applying the odor control compound topically to the base substrate material is directed to a process of making the article. "Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the

product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (citations omitted). MPEP 2113.

e) with the treated base substrate material formed into a component material for a disposable sanitary product, (page 1, line 15-17, page 6, lines 29-32; page 8, lines 18-26; page 14, lines 28-34; page 18, lines 1-18; page 20, lines 7-20, and Figure 1). Regarding the limitation of the aliphatic acid carrier acting to shift the pH of the hydroxydiphenyl ether environment, and the examiner’s interpretation of the performance characteristics of the instant apparatus claims, when the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims of the instant invention, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent (MPEP 2112-2112.01). A *prima facie* case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established when the reference discloses all the limitations of a claim except a property or function and the examiner can not determine whether or not the reference inherently possesses properties which anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention but has basis for shifting the burden of proof as in *In re Fitzgerald*, 619 F.2d 67, 70 205 USPQ 594, 596 (CCPA 1980). In the present case, the reference has met the structural requirements of claim by providing a base substrate with an attached compound comprising an admixture of a hydroxydiphenyl ether and an aliphatic acid carrier.

As to claim 3, Nakamura discloses the hydroxydiphenyl ether is a trichlorodiphenyl ether (page 14, lines 28-34).

As to claim 4, Nakamura discloses the modified acidic carrier is an organic acid (page 6, lines 29-32, page 8, lines 18-26).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura. Nakamura discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, Nakamura does not specifically disclose the odor control absorbent article is a training pant or a pull-on garment. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the odor control absorbent article to include a training pant or pull-on garment as it is old and well known in the art that disposable hygiene products can include diapers, sanitary napkins, training pants, pull-on garments, and incontinence garments.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Beall et al. USPN 6287634. Nakamura discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, Nakamura does not disclose the aliphatic acid is a hexanedioic acid. Beall discloses the use of hexanedioic acid in a topical treatment compound (col. 12, lines 20-21 and col. 22, lines 53 through col. 23, line 16). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate hexanedioic acid in the invention of Nakamura as taught in Beall. Doing so would provide a compound that can be combined with a topically- active compound and homogeneously dispersed as an insoluble, particulate material in order to deliver a topical treatment, to be delivered to the skin, which Beall teaches is desired (col. 22, lines 53-67).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline F Stephens whose telephone number is (703) 308-8320. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703)305-1025. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jacqueline F Stephens  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3761



June 10, 2004